

Pastor on February 13, 2010. To this day, he continues to provide insightful leadership and spiritual guidance to the members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the Shiloh Community Fellowship United Holy Church of America's 75th Anniversary. The organization continues to provide outstanding spiritual guidance and solace for members of the Asbury Park community.

IMMIGRATION AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE REFORM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my growing concern on the current state of our Nation's immigration reform. On October 2nd, I had the privilege of attending a press conference at the Church of the Ascension. I was joined by many of my constituents, my colleague Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ of Illinois, State Senator Adriano Espaillat, members of New York City Council, local city officials, and numerous immigration rights advocates to discuss immigration reform and a landmark bill that will change the way the City of New York Department of Corrections works with the federal immigration authorities and to reduce unnecessary immigrant deportations in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, we all live in a nation built by immigrants. When our great grandparents first arrived, they had hope to escape from religious persecution or perhaps economic and political repression; they had hope to work hard so they can build strong families and make a decent living with respect and dignity. The United States of America is known to be a country where anyone with good moral standing, courage, endurance and the desire to do the right thing can achieve and live the American Dream. The least we can all do for one another is to pave way, not to inflict pain.

Upon their arrival, those newcomers had never been given legitimacy to help grow this Nation. They were very well welcomed, simply because this vast Nation desperately needed builders. Those people worked hard, sacrificed to strengthen the agriculture, infrastructures and all other things our generation relies on. Present day immigrants are still important to our national economy. In a time when our national economy is in peril, losing this part of our community would cause industries to collapse.

The United States would not be the same without our ancestors, who were, in fact, the product of immigrants. They have contributed enormously to the standing of our economy and will continue to do the same in the future. I believe that it only is fair to treat them with justice and fairness. We certainly do not want to look back in 20 or 30 years and have our grandchildren ask: how could we be so cruel? America can not be known as a place where Federal agencies simply disregard local people and laws in order to detain, deport immigrants, separate families and loved ones.

Folks, who are in the custody of local New York authorities, have been, in the last two or three years, subjected to be detained, questioned and can potentially be deported by ICE.

Mr. Speaker, some of these folks had no prior conviction. They pose no threat to our society. Thus, deserve a second chance. Ultimately, we may have an honest and extensive debate on whether or not we would like to use amnesty or banishment as a method to fix our own problem, but it is imperative that the procedure is done with respect to the law and basic human rights.

I would like to praise my colleague, Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Danny Dromm, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez and Make the Road NY Organization for their enormous efforts to bring to the attention this issue. I would also like to praise the New York City Council for taking a bold action to limit the Immigration and Custom Enforcement's authority over New York City Department of Correction. We certainly can not allow agency such as ICE to detain and deport people without the appropriate legal basis. The introduction of Int.656-2011 certainly is a stepping stone to a true, effective reform.

I would like to take this moment to show my sincere appreciation for Pastor John P. Duffell for allowing the use of the site to advocate the reform. This is truly a humanitarian concern and Churches throughout the country should not shy away from helping those who are in need. I encourage more mosques, synagogues, churches throughout this country to teach and advocate local people about immigration reforms. People incline to think that religion and politics should not mix and that religious institutions should stay away from this matter. Though this isn't so. This matter is not about politics; it's not about winning or losing; it's about people who just want to work hard and live well. We want to treat and praise them like we have to our ancestors.

Finally, I encourage all my colleagues to consider immigration reform as a serious concern and that we can no longer neglect to establish a legislative reform that is fair, effective and serve the best of the whole. Deporting people, tearing families apart, build a wall to keep people out is not real reform; it is a temporary solution to a problem. We need a sensible immigration policy which will allow the best, the brightest and those who are willing to work hard to continue the great chapter of our Nation's history. Mr. Speaker, America is strong because people come from all over the world with the intent to achieve the American Dream. The will of the people, as history have shown, have strive our nation to success from every corner.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of school libraries, which are changing to better address the needs of students in the 21st century. School libraries are an important part of our educational system and help prepare students for college and a good career.

Teacher librarians teach students how to conduct good research, how to be critical

users of the information they find, and how to avoid plagiarism. They also play an important role teaching online research skills and raising awareness of cyber safety issues.

Mr. Speaker, I know how important school libraries are to the students in my district and across the nation. Please join me in recognizing the invaluable contributions that teacher librarians and school libraries make to our education system.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL, THE VET SUCCESS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill the Vet Success Enhancement Act of 2011.

This bill renews and extends the solemn promise we have made to our veterans. It will allow our wounded warriors a greater chance to prepare for, find and keep suitable jobs through apprenticeships, vocational counseling and general career services.

Currently, many veterans miss their window of opportunity to enroll in the VetSuccess program. Many veteran service organizations have come before the Committee on Veterans Affairs and testified that the current cut-off period does not adequately provide disabled veterans sufficient time to enroll in the program.

Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to extend the eligibility period by 3 years. It is my hope that this additional time will allow our disabled veterans the time they need to complete training that allows them to reenter the workforce.

Disabled veterans have paid a steep price in their service to our country. The least we can do is fix a legislative technicality which would ensure that our service men and women are able to benefit from this important program that allows them to return to productive civilian life.

Mr. Speaker, it is our duty to ensure that our wounded warriors are given the opportunity to succeed here at home. I strongly believe that participation in the VetSuccess program can help put veterans on a meaningful path to success. I urge our colleagues to join me in supporting our veterans.

DESTINY BEAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destiny Bean for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Destiny Bean is a 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destiny Bean is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels

strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Des-tiny Bean for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 26th I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 812. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 812.

U.F. STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RESOLU- TION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Florida's Student Body Government, and to submit for the record their resolution supporting the U.S. commitment to a negotiated settlement of Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The University of Florida Student Government was established in 1909, and represents the interests of the student body. As representatives for the students of the University of Florida, this student government body has put forth Resolution 2011-138, which calls for the continuation of peaceful negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and to oppose any attempt seeking a unilateral declaration of statehood from the United Nations.

The students of the University of Florida hereby resolve:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH DIRECT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS, AND CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE UNILATERAL PALESTINIAN EFFORTS OF DECLARING INDEPENDENCE IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

Whereas, a true and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people can only be achieved through direct negotiations between two legitimate parties and the acceptance of Israel's right to exist; and

Whereas, direct negotiations between two legitimate parties to ensure an agreement that acknowledges both historical territorial claims to land while also taking into account the current demographic and security realities; and

Whereas, Hamas, an organization responsible for the death of hundreds of Israeli and American civilians, has been designated by the United States State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and is in control of the Gaza strip; and

Whereas, Hamas has held merger talks with the Palestinian Authority and continues to forcefully reject the possibility of peace with Israel, and

Whereas, refusing to come to the table and negotiate despite President Obama's direct request for a meeting following the Israeli nine month settlement freeze, the Palestinian Authority is preventing any constructive dialogue from taking place that could eventually lead to the formation of a Palestinian state; and

Whereas, the Palestinian Authority attempting to gain full membership at the United Nations through a unilateral declaration of statehood is counterproductive to the peace process; and

Whereas, a poll done by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion showed that eighty-three percent of Palestinians cited job creation as the most pressing issue, with only four percent citing UN recognition of Palestinian statehood as the most important; and

Whereas, of that same poll only forty percent of Palestinians think that the UN vote will actually help to bring about an independent Palestinian state; and

Whereas, the United States passed H. Res 268 and S. Bill 185 calling on the Administration to block the Palestinian Authority's efforts at the United Nations, and to cut foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority in the event of a unilateral declaration, and

Whereas, the Obama administration has publicly criticized the Palestinian Authority's push for an unsustainable unilateral declaration, then be it

Resolved That the University of Florida Student Senate, on behalf of the students of the University of Florida, join our elected officials in support of a peaceful, two-state solution through direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis; and be it further

Resolved That the students of the University of Florida support a halt to any efforts for a unilateral declaration of statehood at the United Nations and that the Palestinian Authority terminates its association with Hamas, so that it may be considered a legitimate partner for peace.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ARMY 1ST LT. ASHLEY I. WHITE STUMPF

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army 1st Lt. Ashley I. White Stumpf—a member of the North Carolina National Guard's 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. She was attached to a Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan when she and two Army Rangers were killed as enemy forces attacked her unit with an improvised explosive device.

Ashley was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Medical Service Corps Officer after receiving a commission from Kent State University in 2009. After completing both the medical services officer basic course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and the U.S. Army basic airborne course at Fort Benning, Georgia, she volunteered to become a member of a new tactical force called Cultural Support Teams.

Cultural Support Teams highlight the importance and necessity of women on the battlefield today. Their primary task is to engage the female population in ways that would be culturally inappropriate if performed by a male service member. As a member of only the

second class of women to enter this program, Ashley was a trail-blazer. Cultural Support Team members assist in a variety of functions in Afghanistan, including medical programs, searches and seizures, humanitarian assistance, and civil-military operations. In support of these special Special Operations units, Ashley exposed herself to danger on a regular basis and has now become the first casualty in what the Army says is a new and vital wartime attempt to gain the trust of Afghan women. She will be remembered for her sacrifice for years to come.

Ashley's awards and decorations are many and include the Parachutist Badge, the Ohio Faithful Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. She will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Lt. Col. David Hodne stated it well when he said, "Ashley was an incredibly talented officer and teammate who lost her life while committed to making a difference in our effort in Afghanistan. She demonstrated a level of quiet courage that set the example for others to follow, and we will never forget her sacrifice. Her family is in our thoughts and prayers."

A native of Alliance, Ohio, Ms. White Stumpf is survived by her husband Cpt. Jason Stumpf of Raeford, N.C., her parents Robert and Deborah White, twin sister Brittney and brother Josh, all of Alliance. Loved by friends, family and citizens across this nation, Ashley will remain a shining example of selfless sacrifice.

I honor Ashley's life, her service, and her memory. She will surely be missed by many, but she—along with all of our fallen heroes—will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 816 and 817, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both.

DEAN ROGERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dean Rogers for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Dean Rogers is a 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dean Rogers is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.